

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

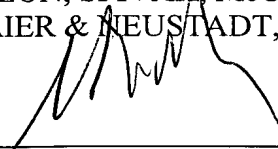
Claims 2, 8-13 and 15 have been allowed because the prior art does not disclose the claimed invention "including the actuator as including an input shaft that rotates with a housing" (Office Action, paragraph 3). Claims 1, 7, 14 and 20 have therefore been amended to further recite that the actuator or actuator means includes an input shaft that rotates with a housing. Basis for this is found in the sentence bridging pages 5-6. Since the prior art does not disclose this feature, Claims 1, 5-7, 14 and 18-21 are also believed to be allowable over the prior art, including JP 2001-030921 which was applied against these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

New Claims 21-24 correspond to Claims 1, 7, 14 and 20, respectively, except that they recite that the actuator includes at least one gear providing a variable transfer ratio of angular inputs from a steering shaft, or actuator means for providing a variable transfer ratio of a steering angle. No such actuator providing a variable transfer ratio is taught in the prior art including JP '921. These claims are also believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Gregory J. Maier  
Registration No. 25,599  
Robert T. Pous  
Registration No. 29,099  
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number  
**22850**  
Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)